

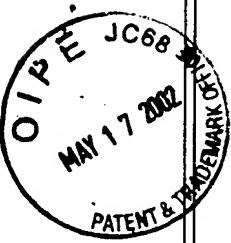
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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

May 8, 2002  
By Michelle Chan  
Michelle Chan

PATENT  
100/12710

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

GARY L. SHUCK

Application No.: 10/092,011

Filed: March 5, 2002

For: PROCESS FOR FILLING  
MICROFLUIDIC CHANNELS

Examiner: To be Assigned

Art Unit: Unknown

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claim 1 with the following like numbered claim.

1. A method of at least partially filling at least one microfluidic channel of a microfluidic device with a gas or fluid, the method comprising:  
    applying a vacuum to the at least one microfluidic channel of the microfluidic device; and  
    at least partially filling the at least one microfluidic channel with at least one of a gas or fluid while the at least one microfluidic channel remains under vacuum.